

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10-15, and 17-20 are amended. Claims 8 and 9 are cancelled. New claim 43 is added. Claims 1-7 and 10-43 are currently pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected over prior art.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 21-34 and also indicating that claims 5-7 and 9-20 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC §103

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olson (USP 5,117,503) in view of Cheng et al. (USP 5,890,067).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claims 5-7 as indicated by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 and dependent claim 4 are in a condition of allowance.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olson (USP 5,117,503) in view of Cheng et al. (USP 5,890,067) in further view of Keskitalo (USP 5,966,679).

As discussed above, claim 1 is in a condition of allowance, therefore, claim 2, which is dependent on allowable claim 1, is also in a condition of allowance.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olson (USP 5,117,503) in view of Cheng et al. (USP 5,890,067) in further view of Jolma Petri (WO 96 37969).

As discussed above, claim 1 is in a condition of allowance, therefore, claim 3, which is dependent on allowable claim 1, is also in a condition of allowance.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olson (USP 5,117,503) in view of Cheng et al. (USP 5,890,067) in further view of Avidor et al. (EP 841826A).

Applicants have cancelled claim 8 and added new independent claim 43. New claim 43 includes the limitations of claims 1, 8 and allowable subject matter from claim 9. Therefore, Applicants submit that new claim 43 is in a condition of allowance.

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-7 and 10-43.

CONCLUSION

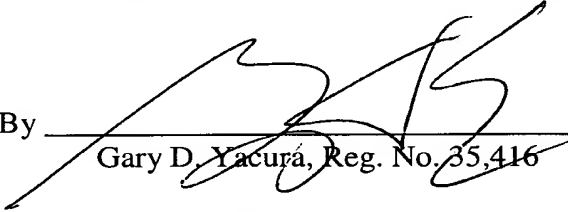
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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